Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an IRAK-4 polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide has ~~having~~ IL-1R/Toll family member signal transduction activity and comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~at least about 98% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1 or to a subsequence thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide comprises an alanine residue at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 81 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said nucleic acid comprises at least about 400 nucleotides~~.

Claims 2-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide specifically binds to antibodies generated against a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 13 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is operably linked to a promoter.

Claim 14 (original): An expression cassette comprising the nucleic acid of claim 13.

Claim 15 (original): An isolated cell comprising the expression cassette of claim 14.

Claims 16-30 (cancelled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method of making an IRAK-4 polypeptide, the method comprising:

(i) introducing a nucleic acid into a host cell or cellular extract, said nucleic acid encoding an IRAK-4 polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide has ~~having~~ IL-1R/Toll family member signal transduction activity and comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 ~~and at least about 98% amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1 or to a subsequence thereof, wherein the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide comprises an alanine residue at an amino acid position corresponding to amino acid position 81 of SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said nucleic acid comprises at least about 400 nucleotides~~;

(ii) incubating said host cell or cellular extract under conditions such that said IRAK-4 polypeptide is expressed in the host cell or cellular extract; and

(iii) recovering the IRAK-4 polypeptide from the host cell or cellular extract.

Claims 32-66 (cancelled)

Claim 67 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said IL-1R/Toll family member signal transduction activity is NFκB activation activity.

Claim 68 (new): The method of claim 63, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 69 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 63, wherein said IL-1R/Toll family member signal transduction activity is NFκB activation activity.

Claim 70 (new): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an IRAK-4 polypeptide, said polypeptide having IL-1R/Toll family member signal transduction activity, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.